



1238037 - R8 SDMS


RE: Clarification on risk reduction at OU1
 DC Orr
 to:
 Sonya Pennock, filmwest, gordsull
 03/03/2011 08:13 AM
 Cc:
 Sean Earle
 Show Details

Ms. Pennock;

This is where EPAs' lack of institutional memory on this Superfund site, the only Superfund site with a Declaration of a Public Health Emergency, is so frustrating. EPA reversing their previous statements regarding Libbys' "clean bill of health" by claiming the entire valley is now full of naturally occurring Amphibole is going to devastate economic development. *not new*

In this response you create yet another contradiction in EPAs' risk communications to the people of Libby.

You state that Libby Amphibole is naturally occurring in the Libby valley. (Which we call the Kootenai Valley)

Mike Crill made a presentation to the CAG some years ago wherein he alleged that the EPA was using topsoil sourced North of Libby, just downstream of the minesite and Rainey Creek, that Mr. Crill was sure was contaminated with naturally occurring Libby Amphibole.

Mr. Crill presented a video documentary of the dust produced at the Boothman pit. Discussion centered around the tens of thousands of cubic yards of restoration soil EPA took out of this floodplain and placed on newly "cleaned" properties around the Kootenai Valley. EPA was never able to produce sample results for that soil. Paul Peronard even admitted that the sampling they did was taken from the soil used to restore the pit, not the soil delivered to sites. EPA never sampled the material delivered to various properties, much like occurred last year. One of those properties which received this soil was OU-1, much like occurred again last year. ?

I have asked EPA to explain how contaminated soil was delivered to OU-1 last year, in violation of protocols designed to avoid this mess, you have thus far refused to respond. ?

EPA denied that there was naturally occurring Libby Amphibole in the Kootenai Valley at the time Mr. Crill raised the issue. EPA claimed that all of the material they were removing from the Libby properties had been hauled in from the minesite. EPA claimed the soil secured from the Boothman Pit contained no naturally occurring Libby Amphibole. ?

Within a week, EPA had closed the Boothman pit and was securing topsoil from Eureka, Montana. They continued to use common fill sourced from the Plum Creek pit and Nobles' pit, again in the floodplain along the Kootenai.

This revelation causes me to question whether or not the topsoil EPA had delivered to OU-1 was actually "clean".

Can you assure me that the restoration soil used at OU-1 around the Pavillion, sourced at the Boothman Pit, does not contain naturally occurring Libby Amphibole? All of the soil used for restoration North of City Service Road was sourced from the Boothman Pit. *

This one single question is crucial to forward movement on OU-1, please respond immediately given the short timeline allowed in recent demand for access from Ms. Thomas. Lack of response to our questions is hindering forward movement on OU-1. Council would be

irresponsible to proceed without informed consent.

I will address the rest of this response at a later date but understand that it is pertinent and immediate to the debate. EPA has stated that they will close pathways of exposure, period. Thus, toxicity was not a factor in your work. You are seemingly going back on that statement with language that opposes the comments in the ROD from this community, and your own OIG, that toxicity must be defined before final remedial action occurs.

Does the topsoil used on OU-1, sourced from the Boothman pit, contain naturally occurring Libby Amphibole? One simple question. Please respond.

Thank you, DC Orr

> Subject: Clarification on risk reduction at OU1
 > To: filmwest@gmail.com; xcav8orr@hotmail.com
 > CC: Earle.Sean@epamail.epa.gov
 > From: Pennock.Sonya@epamail.epa.gov
 > Date: Thu, 17 Feb 2011 14:13:52 -0700

> When we spoke 2/9, you indicated that EPA spokespersons had
 > contradicted themselves in discussions about the OU1 remedy's risk
 > reduction goals. Perhaps the information below will clarify any
 > misunderstanding.

> EPA cleanups reduce exposure in order to reduce health risks at
 > Superfund sites.

> Because Libby Amphibole is naturally-occurring in the Libby
 > valley, EPA will not be able to remove all asbestos from the
 > environment. EPA will focus on reducing exposures so that the
 > cancer risks and non-cancer hazards are reduced to meet EPA's
 > targets.

> One of the Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs) for OU1 listed in the
 > ROD is to "break the exposure pathways for inhalation of LA fibers
 > that would result in unacceptable cancer risk or non-cancer
 > hazard." We expect to meet this objective.

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